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FLU UPDATES

Influenza Surveillance

This week *Nature* published a set of articles and commentaries on the shortcomings of global influenza surveillance. The experts make the case that current surveillance efforts are far too sparse, erratic, and crisis-driven and that they suffer from a geographic imbalance. The Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) summarizes the articles [here](#).

Related news article: [Nature: More flu surveillance needed](#).

Eurosurveillance [published an article](#) last week “Early estimates of the effectiveness of the 2011/12 influenza vaccine in the population targeted for vaccination in Spain, 25 December 2011 to 19 February 2012. Researchers found an adjusted vaccine effectiveness (VE) of 55% (95% CI: 3 to 79) against any type of influenza virus and 54% (95% CI: 1 to 79) against influenza A(H3N2) virus. This suggests a moderate protective effect of the vaccine in the targeted population in a late influenza epidemic with limited match between vaccine and circulating strains.

Eurosurveillance also published, “[Moderate influenza vaccine effectiveness in Victoria, Australia, 2011](#)” on March 15, 2012.

Additional Journal Articles:

- [Microfluidic Chip for Molecular Amplification of Influenza A RNA in Human Respiratory Specimens](#)
- [Community responses to communication campaigns for Influenza A \(H1N1\): a focus group study](#)
- [Increased risk of non-influenza respiratory virus infections associated with receipt of inactivated influenza vaccine](#)
- [Usefulness of health registries when estimating vaccine effectiveness during the Influenza A\(H1N1\)pdm09 pandemic in Norway](#)

INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES

- [Scientists find gene that can make flu a killer](#)
- [Gene flaw linked to serious flu risk](#)
- [India H1N1 flu outbreak kills 12](#)
- [Inovio Receives U.S. Patent for SynCon® H1N1 Influenza Universal Vaccine](#)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

- [Indonesian boy dies from H5N1 infection](#)

News articles on H5N1 Studies

- [Scientists volley ahead of more dual-use H5N1 debate](#)
- [Why all our bird flu research should be published](#)
- [Fouchier anticipates resuming H5N1 studies soon](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

MDCH'S [MONTHLY](#) FLU POSTERS

NEW CDC RESOURCES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated one of their influenza-related websites: [Flu and Heart Disease & Stroke](#).

CDC announced a new web site available for flu prevention partners:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/partners/index.htm>

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

This year [NIIW](#) will be held April 21-28, 2012. NIIW is an annual observance that highlights the importance of routine immunizations for children younger than 2. NIIW is a great time to acknowledge and thank the immunization champions who help keep our children up-to-date on their immunizations and healthy.

Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) Resources

IAC has a new web section on [Pharmacists and Immunization](#). The website provides direct links to widely used immunization resources such as APhA's Pharmacist Immunization Center, training programs, and handbooks, as well as ASHP's policy statements and toolkit.

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